

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01992 201043Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSC-01

PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
-----059264 211821Z/14

R 191447Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3838
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, SW
SUBJ: NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA

1. GOS ANNOUNCED MAY 18 THAT AXEL MANFRED NILSSON, CHIEF OF THE PRESS AND INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE MFA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA. HE WILL REPLACE AMBASSADOR GUNNAR LJUNDAHL WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AS A FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTOR.

2. NILSSON WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1922 AND CAME TO DIPLOMACY OUT OF JOURNALISM. FROM 1954 TO 1961, HE WAS AN EDITOR WITH A-PRESSEN, THE PRESS BUREAU SERVING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRESS IN SWEDEN. FROM 1961 TO 1970, HE WAS PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR THE LO, SWEDEN'S LARGE CENTRAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. IN 1970, HE JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WAS ASSIGNED TO BONN AS SOCIAL AFFAIRS ATTACHE (THUS SERVING UNDER ANOTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WITH A JOURNALIST BACKGROUND, AMBASSADOR SVEN BACKLUND). IN 1976, NILSSON WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE MFA PRESS AND INFORMATION BUREAU. HE IS MARRIED TO INGA-BRITT JOHANSSON AND SPEAKS ENGLISH AND GERMAN QUITE WELL.

3. QUITE, RESERVED, SMART AND SHREWD ARE SOME OF THE DESCRIPTIONS
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OF NILSSON CHOSEN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS IN RECENT YEARS. HE HAS BEEN QUITE COOPERATIVE WITH THE EMBASSY AND WITH VISITING AMERICAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. HE IS FAMILIAR TO FSO PAYL HACKER WHOSE ASSIGNMENT TO SOFIA BEGINS IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. NILSSON IS AN OLD-LINE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT AND ONE OF THE FEW NON-CAREER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO WERE NOT REASSIGNED SOON AFTER THE NON-SOCIALIST VICTORY IN THE SEPTEMBER 1976 ELECTIONS.

4. NILSSON'S PLACE AT THE MFA WILL BE TAKEN BY CAREER AMBASSADOR
GUNNAR LONAEUS, A FORMER CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND
AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL SINCE 1975.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINR, SW, BU, (NILSSON, AXEL MANFRED), (LJUNDAHL, GUNNAR)
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